

BREWING UP A STORM IN JOHN O'GROATS



John o'Groats Brewery tapped in to support from Caithness Chamber of Commerce, thanks to funding from DSRL and the NDA



Support from Caithness Chamber of Commerce helped John o'Groats Brewery to grow

Based at the northernmost point of mainland Britain, John o'Groats Brewery is a small enterprise with a big heart. Brought together through a mutual love for brewing beer, three friends, Simon Cottam, John Mainprize and Alan Farquhar took the

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opportunity presented to them through their employer Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSRL) to retrain for a new career and launch their own brewery.

Identifying a niche opening and seeing potential in their location at John o'Groats as a unique selling point, the trio set about developing their business plan.

Transitioning the idea from conception to commercially brewing their beer was no easy feat and took 12 months of dedication and perseverance to bring the brewery into operation.

Through the Business Support Programme, the team received guidance from Caithness Chamber of Commerce regarding the managerial aspects of establishing their business, gaining access to training courses in areas such as marketing, accountancy and digital technologies.

“Assistance from the Chamber gave our company a strong footing, providing courses designed for people just starting out and with limited experience in running their own business,” said Simon.

“Hosting these in the evening, outside of working hours, has enabled those of us

managing their startups around full-time employment to attend without needing to take leave.”

Looking to the future, Simon and the team are in the process of increasing production in order to supply several styles of beer to establishments both locally and nationally. They also aim to introduce their own bottled ales to increase accessibility and reach wider domestic and wholesale markets.

Expanding the business will involve identifying new premises, purchasing new plant and the employment of several staff to operate and market the brewery.

For Simon, John and Alan, this is the beginning of a bright future.

To find out more about the Chamber's Business Support Programme and how the team can help you succeed, contact us today on 01847 890076 or info@caithnesschamber.com.



Support is available for those looking to start up a new business or who have been in business for less than six months, thanks to funding made available by Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.